

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2011

Committee Members

- Stephen Braun, 549-2697 (chair)
- Michael Cann, 253-7753
- Christine Gray-Mullen, 230-3214
- Donald George, 253-7579
- Charles Moran, 549-5767

Accomplishments

In accordance with its charge, the committee reviewed DPW plans for street repairs and improvements and recommended that annual Chapter 90 funds be combined with revenue from the approved \$4.5 million bond issue to repave/resurface many town streets (for a list of the streets resurfaced in the summer of 2011, see “Road Repair Recommendations for the 2010-2011 Construction Seasons” at <https://amherstma.gov/documentView.aspx?DID=3918>. Other accomplishments included:

- Monitoring of work by the state highway department on the construction of two roundabouts in the vicinity of Atkins Farm, and of the impacts of various traffic detours through neighboring streets.
- Traffic calming in Precinct 10. The PWC held several public hearings on various proposals to reduce traffic speeds/volumes in this area. The PWC supported the installation of a set of “speed humps” on Sunset Avenue, McClellan Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue. Humps were installed on Sunset and McClellan in summer of 2011 as part of the resurfacing of those roads. Humps will be installed on Lincoln whenever that road (between Fearing St. and Amity St.) is resurfaced. The humps appear to be highly effective in limiting the top speeds achievable by vehicles.
- Consideration of the “complete streets” concept to create streets that are “friendly” to bikes, busses, and pedestrians as well as cars. (The committee voted against endorsing this specifically-named concept, though it supports, in general, attempts to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.)
- Consideration of options for funding storm water-related maintenance in the future. (No action was taken on this matter since the Town is not currently under any obligations to upgrade or change its storm water system.)

Public Hearings

In addition to the hearings held as part of the previously-mentioned projects, during this fiscal year, members of the committee or the committee as a whole participated in public hearings on the following matters:

- Improvement of the Big Y entrance on University Drive and the University Drive/Route 9 intersection (this construction work was completed during summer of 2011 with the exception of installation of the traffic light, which has been delayed).
- Wildwood Elementary School “Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program.”
- Resurfacing and renovations to the Spring Street parking lot (this work was approved and implemented in summer/fall of 2011).

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Braun, Chair